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ASSISTANCE IN MINE CLEARANCE
RATIONALIZATION OF THE WORK AND REFORM OF THE AGENDA OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 7 January 1998 from the Permanent Representatives of Tajikistan and Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a joint communiqué signed by the President of Uzbekistan, Mr. Islam Karimov, and the President of Tajikistan, Mr. Emomali Rakhmonov, during the visit of the President of Tajikistan to Uzbekistan on 4 January 1998 (see annex).

We should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 38, 41 and 83, and as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Rashid ALIMOV
Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Tajikistan
to the United Nations

(Signed) Alisher VOHIDOV
Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Uzbekistan
to the United Nations

Annex

[Original: Russian]

JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ

On 4 January 1998, at the invitation of the President of Uzbekistan, Islam Karimov, the President of Tajikistan, Emomali Rakhmonov, paid a working visit to Uzbekistan.

In a frank, friendly and business-like atmosphere, the leaders of the two countries conducted an exchange of views on issues of bilateral relations, and also on regional and international problems of common interest.

The heads of State took a positive view of the progressive development of Uzbek-Tajik relations.

The Tajik side commended the experience of the economic reforms under way in Uzbekistan, and confirmed its readiness to develop further the traditional relations of friendship, good neighbourliness and mutually advantageous cooperation between the two fraternal peoples.

The leaders of both States noted that close and comprehensive central Asian integration is one of the priorities for ensuring national security and a foundation for constructive cooperation based on the common historical fates of the peoples of central Asia, as is confirmed in the Treaty on the establishment of a single economic space between Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan.

The Tajik side confirmed its interest in joining the single economic space of the central Asian countries. The Uzbek side welcomed that intention on the part of Tajikistan and expressed its readiness to cooperate in giving practical effect to it.

The sides expressed their conviction that participation in the single economic space would enable Tajikistan to engage in cooperation with the States of central Asia in line with the principles of free trade and on the basis of prices on the world market, equal economic and legal terms for economic agents, the creation of a common market for goods, services, capital and labour, and cooperation in the scientific and technical, production, investment, financial, transport and social spheres.

The sides arrived at the joint view that the maintenance of peace, stability and sustainable development in central Asia and the strengthening of inter-State and regional economic cooperation are in conformity with the vital interests of the peoples living there.

The heads of State noted with satisfaction the positive impact on the inter-Tajik negotiating process of the General Agreement on the Establishment of Peace and National Accord in Tajikistan, signed in Moscow, and the start of the work of the Commission on National Reconciliation.

Uzbekistan and Tajikistan firmly condemn ethnic, racial and religious intolerance.

The sides will take joint measures against any manifestations of political and religious extremism.

The sides expressed their readiness for close cooperation between the competent bodies of both States in the timely resolution of issues that arise and the institution of constructive cooperation.

The sides expressed their concern at the continuing armed confrontation in Afghanistan and the danger of escalation of the intra-Afghan conflict. In this connection, they expressed support for the efforts of the United Nations to channel the Afghan conflict into the course of political solution, particularly emphasizing the importance of implementing a comprehensive embargo on the delivery of arms to the opposing Afghan groups.

Both States will make the necessary efforts to promote the intensification of cooperation and mutual understanding, the strengthening of stability and the guaranteeing of security in central Asia. For these purposes, they will hold regular consultations within the framework of the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and other international and regional organizations in which they are participants, inter alia on issues relating to the development of democratic institutions and to human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Uzbekistan and Tajikistan will expand their cooperation in the sphere of transit and transport communications in order to serve more fully the interests of their economies.

The sides will facilitate the further development of economic, cultural, scientific and technical and other links.

Both States will continue to cooperate in the field of protection and restoration of the environment and combating the consequences of environmental disasters and anthropogenic action on the environment, including the transboundary aspect, and will pay special attention to the problems of the Aral Sea basin.

In this connection, the need was noted to establish a comprehensive environmental security programme including practical action to establish a nuclear-free zone in central Asia and combat the leakage of nuclear technologies and raw materials.

The sides will develop and strengthen cooperation in the area of combating the illegal distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, terrorism and organized crime, and to this end will facilitate cooperation between the law enforcement agencies of both States.

Uzbekistan and Tajikistan will intensify interaction and cooperation in all other spheres of mutual interest.

Islam Karimov
President of Uzbekistan

Emomali Rakhmonov
President of Tajikistan